

to run for the Long Beach City Council because I felt that my councilmember really didn't listen to the constituents and to my neighbors and myself.

This journey of public service has taken me from the Long Beach City Hall to the California State Capitol and now to our Nation's Capitol for the last 10 years.

When I began this journey, I did so with a commitment to listen to my community and to use all of my abilities to help make my constituents' lives better.

Over the years, with the help of my family, my colleagues, especially with the help of my staff, and, yes, my constituents themselves, I hope and believe that I have met that commitment. For this help, I will always be grateful.

Their help has led me to be a champion for the environment, to promote conservation of our wildlife and natural spaces, to clean up our ports and maritime industry, to address the growing plastic pollution and climate crisis, and to promote clean energy.

For my constituents, I have remained a dedicated advocate for human rights, introducing the International Human Rights Defense Act, securing the release of numerous prisoners of conscience and also Americans who have been detained unjustly abroad, and serving as a critical voice for the Vietnamese and Cambodian communities across our Nation, all while working to hold corrupt and autocratic elites abroad accountable for their actions.

My constituents have demanded a better future, and in their name, I have championed a strong and sustainable freight infrastructure network with the National Multimodal Freight Network Improvement Act and key provisions in the bipartisan infrastructure act, all critical issues, as we have seen in the wake of the supply chain crisis.

As a Jewish Member of Congress, I was proud to be a leading voice on the passage of H. Res. 326, a reaffirmation of our commitment as a Nation to a two-state solution and peace in the Middle East.

Throughout this journey, my constituents have remained the stars which have guided me. I have been deeply touched by their support over so many years, just as I am deeply honored by the trust and faith they have placed in me time and time again to represent them.

But as I said while announcing my retirement a year ago, just as every journey has a beginning, so does it have an end, and it is now time to pass the baton.

During this journey, I have been blessed with having the pleasure of raising two fine sons, who have blessed me with four grandchildren, whom I adore. I now look forward to spending time with them and watching them grow and flourish into wonderful people like their parents.

It is also a chance for me and my wife, Debbie, who has been my rock

and partner throughout this journey, to even more deeply enjoy our lives together.

However, as Robert Frost wrote, there are miles to go before I sleep.

I believe deeply in the innate goodness of our Nation and our people. I have seen us live up to that potential so many times and, in doing so, move our Nation and the world forward, but progress must be earned. It remains up to each of us to continue that struggle.

While I am stepping away from the front lines of that struggle, I will continue to be at your side, fighting for what is right, for what is just, and for what makes us better as both a people and a Nation.

It has been a distinct honor and a true privilege to serve the people of California's 47th District during my time in Congress.

#### IN GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, after 8 years of service, in gratitude for this body and the people of central New York who have entrusted me to represent them in Congress since 2015.

When I first ran for Congress, I left a job that I absolutely loved as a Federal prosecutor, trying cases involving organized crime, murder, political corruption, drug trafficking, and every manner of awful crime you can imagine.

As a prosecutor, politics never mattered to me. I worked alongside public servants every day who sought to bring justice to victims of crime. We were united in our mission to make our community a better place. I brought this similar approach to Congress, and I dare say it has worked.

I am proud of the work we have done over the past 8 years—and when I say “we,” I am talking about myself, my staff, and my colleagues—to solve serious problems and unite people across this great land.

I focused on unifying issues, and I regularly introduced bills with Democratic cosponsors. In fact, almost every bill I introduced, I would not introduce until I had a Democratic lead on that bill.

I broke with my own party time and again when it was in the best interests of central New York and America. I remained an active member of the Problem Solvers Caucus, and I am proud to have led and grown the Republican Governance Group to become a very powerful and moderate voice in the Republican Party.

I am proud today to give this speech while some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying goodbye, as well. We did a lot of good things together, and I am very proud of them, and I am proud to call them my friends.

I am proud of this approach to governing, and I am honored to have con-

sistently ranked among the most bipartisan and effective Members in all of Congress. That is not me ranking it or my friends; that is an independent group. It yielded the passage of nearly 100 bills in my name and the enactment of laws by Presidents from both parties.

Most importantly, I was able to work across party lines time and again to deliver results for central New York. We delivered a bipartisan infrastructure package and secured historic investments for domestic semiconductor manufacturing that has now brought a manufacturer to central New York that is going to invest \$100 billion in central New York. Stunning.

We lowered taxes for the middle class. We began work on addressing the opioid epidemic and mental health crisis. We worked on efforts to strengthen cybersecurity, improve airport and transportation security, and protect our homeland.

In the past year alone, we brought home nearly \$9 million in funding for initiatives that will improve the quality of life across our district.

Of course, this has not been a one-man operation. I could not have had these successes without a tremendous amount of support. I have been blessed with family, friends, health, and the most loving and patient wife you could possibly imagine, Robin.

I have been supported by an incredible staff, some of whom I see here today. I am so glad they are here. I have been supported by staff members who faithfully served central New York and diligently worked on the House Homeland Security Committee, as well, to make our Nation safer.

Four times, my constituents in Onondaga, Cayuga, Wayne, and Oswego Counties elected me to be their voice in Congress, and they have consistently provided me with valuable and, oftentimes, very frank input. They have guided my decisions, to say the least.

These constituents are not just Republicans, and they are not just Democrats, and they are not just Independents, but they are all of my constituents. I profoundly understood that. I am eternally grateful for their input.

Serving central New York has been an honor that I can't possibly tell you.

Finally, as my time in Congress comes to an end, I urge my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to consider the impact of working across the aisle as they seek to address the many challenges ahead.

Throughout my 8 years in Congress, I have consistently drawn inspiration from the relationship between two diametrically opposed political giants from the 1980s, Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill. They were able to compromise and make progress on issues today that seem unfathomable: tax reform, tax cuts, immigration reform, and Social Security reform. Imagine trying to do that today in this divided House.

They did it not because of personal or political gain. They did it because of

love for their country. We should all be instructed by that.

While Congress is seemingly more divided than ever, our inability to find common ground is making us less competitive on the world stage, less prosperous, and is getting in the way of solving big problems.

We were all sent here by our constituents to put the work in and to better our districts. When there are only fights and no bipartisan cooperation, it is our constituents, not us, who suffer. Please remember that.

I made working across the aisle a priority during my 8 years in the House, and I can leave here knowing I achieved real results, along with my great team. I worked every day to make my district in central New York and this country better.

So, for the last time, Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, I yield back.

#### REFLECTIONS ON FAMILY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the final time, I rise to address this Chamber, and I am leaving here with a heart full of gratitude.

When I reflect on the path I have traveled, I still can't believe it is real—a baby girl born in post-war Vietnam to parents facing persecution by the Communist government. We fled our homeland by boat and were rescued by American sailors. Our family was given refuge, granted citizenship, and provided opportunity in the United States.

My mom and dad worked so hard to make ends meet. They struggled to overcome barriers of language and culture, all so that I could have a better life than they did.

My happiest childhood memories are of fishing with my father. On the water, he told me stories of his old life in Vietnam. His new life in America wasn't easy, but I know he felt blessed to be an American.

Those who have endured the absence of freedom and safety rarely take their presence for granted.

As I grew up, I was encouraged and mentored by so many generous people who expected nothing in return. I remember hoping that, one day, I might be in a position to help people just as they helped me.

Over time, I realized that government service was a good way for me to chisel away at the infinite debt of gratitude I owe this country. I also discovered that it infused my professional life with a sense of purpose.

After the 9/11 attacks, I spent a few years at the Department of Defense, and it was a privilege to work alongside American patriots. I admired their singular focus on the mission: keeping our country safe from those who sought her harm. From them, I learned about courage and commitment.

A decade later, I heard the siren song of public service once again. I had moved to central Florida. I was the mother of two young children and worked at jobs in the private sector I enjoyed, but I was worried about polarization in our political system.

Although deep divisions in American politics have existed since the dawn of our Republic, there was something in the atmosphere that felt especially poisonous. Too many Democratic and Republican leaders failed to treat one another with civility and decency. They were unwilling to express policy differences without making personal attacks or using irresponsible rhetoric.

Extreme partisanship led to legislative gridlock, and communities across the country paid the price, including my own.

When a gunman shot 49 innocent people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, it seemed like yet another preventable tragedy that might have been avoided if common sense and political courage were on greater display in our Nation's Capitol.

If you want to change Washington, you have to change the type of people you are sending there, I said to myself, and I thought I could do my part to make things just a little bit better. So, I launched a long-shot campaign for the people's House, inspired by Teddy Roosevelt's view that the credit belongs to the man, or the woman, in the arena.

I was so excited when I became the first Vietnamese-American woman ever elected to Congress, and I thought about all the people who had lifted me up over the years. I confess I also thought about the people who underestimated me.

I wish my dad were alive to see what his daughter had done so that he would know his sacrifices were worth it. I vowed to work every day to prove I was worthy of the faith my constituents had placed in me.

As my congressional career draws to a close, I am proud of my service. I hope I earned the respect of those I represented, whether they were Democrats, Republicans, or neither, or whether they voted for me or would never dream of voting for me.

□ 1030

This job isn't easy, but nothing truly worth doing is. There are few places where you can make such a difference in people's lives as you can in the United States Congress.

Ask the veteran who finally received the benefit they earned thanks to the congressional office who broke through the bureaucratic red tape.

Ask the millions of Americans who got health and economic aid during the worst of the pandemic.

Ask the billions of people who will live on a cooler, cleaner planet because of the green investments we have made.

Ask the lion-hearted people of Ukraine who defend their land with

weapons we gave them because their fight is our fight.

And ask the police officers who risked their lives on January 6 and who, hopefully, find comfort in the fact that there is a bipartisan committee that seeks to honor their valor by telling the truth about that terrible day.

I will miss this place, but, above all, I will miss the people. I have had wonderful colleagues, some of whom have become lifelong friends. My staff has been like a second family to me, loyal and devoted. We have had so much fun together and achieved so much for our constituents and our country. To honor them I will be entering their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Thank you, Team Murphy.

To my real family—Sean, Liem, Maya, and Kona: I love you. None of this would have been possible or meaningful without you. You are going to be seeing much more of me, as you requested, and as you may come to regret.

I want to end with a word to young Americans, including young girls who look like me. I hope you consider government service. It requires many sacrifices, but the work is important and noble. Our Nation needs good people with steady hands to steer the ship of state: people with integrity; people with common sense who seek common ground; and patriots willing to put the public interest above their personal interests.

Representing my community and my country in Congress has been the greatest honor of my life.

I include in the RECORD the names of my staffers.

Michael Abare, Lauren Allen, Lauren Calmet, Eduardo Carrizosa, Jennifer Carton, Rosnelly Chavarria, David Cox, Gabriel Cruz, Alli Everton, Erica Fuller, Carolyn Haggis, Ken Heidegger, Javier Hernandez, Brad Howard, Justin Karlins, Rachel Kline, MacKensie Kvalvik, John Laufer, James Loomis, Lale Mamaux Morrison, Katherine Marrs, Natalie Martinez, Tamel McKinney, Phoebe Miner, Bruce Moody, Dao Nguyen, David Ogle, Stephanie Palacios, Zoë Prince, Juliana Puente, Jeff Rapp, Nicole Reyes, Adam Safran, Thomas Steenekamp, Christie Stephenson, Kyle Thorp, Emma Trittin, Mark Tucker, Jonathan Uriarte, Christy Wagner, and Madelyn Wiseman.

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CONWAY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CONWAY. Mr. Speaker, while my service in Congress has been brief, it has been the privilege of a lifetime. When Congressman Devin Nunes—who was my Congressman—district was redistricted away, I felt that perhaps my prior service as a county supervisor, as the minority leader in the California State House, and as a Presidential appointee might lend me some expertise to finish the term for Congressman Nunes and represent the constituents of California's Central Valley.

I must say that I felt very welcome here by the California delegation on